

Tribal Superfund Working Group Session

Jim Woolford Talking Points (draft 8-12-15)

- Good morning.
- For those of you I haven't met yet, my name is Jim Woolford and I'm the Director of the Office of Superfund Remediation and Technology Innovation.
- Thank you so much for attending the TLEF and this Tribal Superfund Working Group session in particular.
- OSRTI appreciates the work the Tribal Superfund Working Group does to advance tribal relations and involvement at sites. If you are not already involved in the working group, we encourage you to get involved. This is a great forum to connect with other tribal representatives and EPA on Superfund site issues. As you may have heard, under a new cooperative agreement with EPA, ITEP will be leading the working group and providing some new training and other opportunities for the group. We look forward to having ITEP more involved in the Tribal Superfund Working Group.
- I know you have all made long trips to attend and I appreciate your eagerness to discuss issues that are important to both the tribal community and the Superfund program.
- ITEP has prepared a full agenda and I'm looking forward to our discussions today.

- Before I get started, I want to make sure you all know about several other excellent training opportunities coming up in the near future:
 - The National Association of Remedial Project Managers training will be in late October. NARPM is sponsored by EPA and provides a broad of Superfund training. Tribal representatives are welcomed and encouraged to attend. In fact we will have representative of the Navajo Nation participating in 2015.
 - The National Site Assessment Symposium Training Program is currently in the planning stage, but will likely occur in March 2016 and will cover topics such as state and tribal relations in the site assessment process, efforts in GIS mapping of Superfund sites to improve site location data, as well as information about emerging contaminants and the new lead and vapor intrusion strategies.

- Speaking of the vapor intrusion strategy, let me tell you about vapor intrusion guides EPA published this past June. Both guides reflect input received during a public comment period and tribal consultation.
- The Petroleum Vapor Intrusion Guide is intended for use at sites where vapor intrusion is a potential concern due to releases of petroleum from underground storage tanks, such as at gas stations.
- The other, broader guide is intended for use at all other sites within EPA's jurisdiction where vapor intrusion may be of potential concern ("Main VI Guide"). This is intended for use at all other sites within EPA's jurisdiction where vapor intrusion may be of potential concern and is the guidance that is more relevant to the Superfund program.
- One of the main purposes of these guides is to promote national consistency in how the vapor intrusion pathway is assessed and how decisions (e.g., to take or not take response action) are supported at contaminated sites within EPA's jurisdiction.

- They also supersede EPA's 2002 draft vapor intrusion guidance.
- Both guides are available as a "display copy" on the EPA informational table and on the internet at: <http://www.epa.gov/oswer/vaporintrusion/> Rich Kapuscinski, of my staff, is also an excellent contact on VI if you have any questions.
- Please take a look at the guides, as VI was one of the few Superfund topics that wasn't directly covered during this forum.
- EPA is also updating its 1999 Pre-CERCLA Screening (PCS) guidance used to determine eligibility for remedial site assessment under Superfund.
- A draft revision to this guidance has been completed by a workgroup including EPA, state and tribal staff. The tribal workgroup member is Jason White, Cherokee Nation and we are grateful for Jason's time spent on helping to get the draft developed.
- EPA will be inviting each tribe to review the draft and will set up a teleconference to discuss the draft with interested tribes. EPA expects the review period will last 6-8 weeks.
- Thank you again for attending this session and for the work you do at Superfund sites.
- With that, I'd like to turn it back over to ITEP (or to Charlotte).

Additional Background Information on the Pre-CERCLA Screening Guidance from Randy Hippen

Pre-CERCLA Screening Guidance background for Tribal SF Workgroup meeting:

- EPA is updating its 1999 Pre-CERCLIS Screening (PCS) guidance used by Superfund to determine eligibility for remedial site assessment under Superfund.
- Nearly 9,000 pre-screens completed to date resulting in 1,600 new sites added to the active inventory.
- About 500 of the 9,000 pre-screens performed on or near tribal lands (13 different tribes):
 - 450 (90%) of the 500 completed by EPA within last 5 years at abandoned uranium mines on Navajo Nation lands;
 - 20 (4%) completed by Cherokee Nation;
 - 30 (6%) completed by 5 other tribes.
- The guidance has become outdated and the revision is an action item under the SPR. Action due date is 12/31/2015.
- Revised PCS* guidance drafted by workgroup including EPA, state and tribal staff. The tribal rep is Jason White, Cherokee Nation.
- Key changes include:
 - Clarifying when and which sites are eligible for pre-screening;
 - Establishing minimum requirements needed before starting a pre-screen;
 - Defining allowable data collection activities, including sampling considerations; and
 - Strengthening communication of pre-screening plans and results.
- Draft is ready for review:
 - EPA plans to invite tribal review via formal consultation.
 - EPA will notify each tribe of the draft, timing for a Q&A teleconference, and instructions for providing comments.
 - Review period will last 6-8 weeks.

Note: Guidance renamed to Pre-CERCLA Screening as a result of change from CERCLIS to SEMS